

Amendment No. 3 to SB0131

McNally
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 131

House Bill No. 193*

by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision of § 7-90-103 of the amendatory language of Section 1 of the bill as amended:

() "THEC" means the Tennessee higher education commission;

AND FURTHER AMEND by adding the following language at the end of the amendatory language of Section 1 of the bill:

§ 7-90-122.

(a)

(1) No state bonds shall be issued nor state funds expended by or on behalf of a medical school authority for a proposed project under this chapter unless THEC, upon review of the proposed educational program, specifically approves the program for the purposes of state bonding or state funding. The program shall not be approved for state bonding or state funding unless THEC finds that such program is consistent with the purposes of this chapter as expressed by the general assembly in § 7-90-102 and that such program is in the best interests of the state both educationally and economically. In considering the program for such approval, THEC shall evaluate whether:

(A) The program conflicts with the master plan for public higher education developed pursuant to § 49-7-202(c)(1);

(B) The program is unnecessarily duplicative of other programs offered within the region of Tennessee for which the project is proposed;

(C) There are sufficient potential students in the region or who would be attracted to the region to justify and maintain the operation of the educational program;

(D) The market demand for potential graduates of the program is sufficient to support the number of graduates produced; and

(E) The resources available in the region can sustain the program.

In making its decision, THEC may also consider other circumstances that are unique to the proposed educational program it is evaluating.

(2) THEC approval is not required under this subsection, if the proposed project and educational program will be funded exclusively with non-state funding and without the issuance of state bonds.

(b) The comptroller of the treasury or the comptroller's designee shall not approve a state bond issue under § 7-90-112(f) until the comptroller or the comptroller's designee has received and examined the approval of the associated educational program by THEC pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) All state funds to be expended for a project of a medical school authority shall be specifically appropriated by reference to such project in the general appropriations act and such funds shall only be expended in accordance with the provisions of such act.